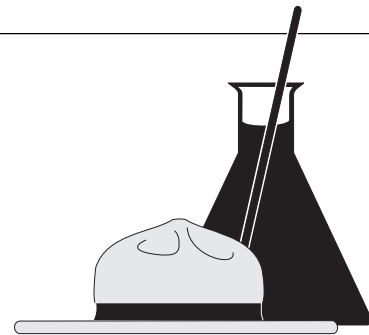# Writing for Park Science

Publication Overview

What is *Park Science?*

Park Science is a quarterly, 32-page, research and resource management bulletin of the National Park Service of the U.S. Department of the Interior. The publication strives to strengthen the links between research and park management. Articles describe both experiments that relate to resource conservation and the application of science in resource management practices. Technical in nature, *Park Science* is edited for the lay reader. It is published four times per year (April, July, October, and January) and is also available on the Internet World Wide Web at *http:// www.aqd.nps.gov/natnet/nrid/parksci.*

What Kinds of Articles are Published in Park Science?

Park Science articles are popularized, field-oriented accounts of general interest research and resource management topics. Articles consist of case studies (specific park-applied research and resource management project write-ups), feature stories (personalized reports on research and its application or professional growth experiences), and short stories (brief articles of broad interest and applicability). Repeating columns include editorials (relevant opinions about current trends in research and resource management), Information Crossfile (synopses of longer, often scholarly works relevant to resource managers), Meetings of Interest (a calendar of important upcoming conferences), Notes from Abroad (accounts of international resource management and research experiences), Man and Biosphere Notes (a report on the MAB program of UNESCO), book reviews and profiles of new publications, 15 Years Ago in *Park Science* (a look back at an earlier story), and Highlights from around the national park system.

Questions

The following guidelines should clarify most of the submission criteria for case studies, feature-length articles, and cluster highlights. However, please contact the editor if you would like to discuss these guidelines in more detail or if you would like help in developing a specific story.

Case Study and Feature Article Submission Guidelines

Focus and Tone

Case studies and feature articles should emphasize the implications of natural or social science research for the management of natural, cultural, and human resources. A broad readership calls for clear communication—highlight main concepts, explain project significance and methods, and detail applicability to management. Write primarily in the active voice and explain technical terms.

Target Audience and Primary Authors

Principal readers and contributors comprise national park system area superintendents, resource managers, natural and social science researchers, interpreters, maintenance staff, visitor and resource protection rangers, and other technical and nontechnical personnel. Circulation also includes other federal agencies; state departments of fish and game, parks and recreation, and natural resources; international parks; private conservation organizations; the academic community; and interested public.

Criteria

Feature articles and case studies may include (1) a description of the resource management problem(s) that prompted the research; (2) an explanation of the significance of the research or project; (3) discussion of management considerations related to the problem(s), such as relevant legislation (enabling, NEPA, ARPA, Endangered Species Act, etc.), pertinent park planning documents (GMP, SFM, FMP, RMP, etc.), planning procedures, and political considerations; (4) a summary of the methodology of the experiment; (5) the results and ramifications of resource management implementation options; (6) a description of how the findings were applied in the field; and (7) an appraisal of the scope of applicability of the findings to other park areas. As additional information about a project accrues, follow-up reports (one or more years later) may be very useful in fine tuning conclusions.

Length

Flexible, but aim for 1,500 words.

Author Information

In addition to a byline, include position title, park area or affiliation, a brief biography, work address, phone and fax numbers, and e-mail address.

Measurements

Report measurements in metric (using abbreviations for units) followed by English in parentheses. Time is to be reported using A.M. and P.M.

Deadlines

Fall issue–August 1; Winter–November 1; Spring–February 1; Summer–May 1. Late submittals are welcome, but may be held for later publication.

Illustrations

Submit several illustrations. Show personnel at work, project equipment, techniques used, locator maps, species portraits, etc., to illustrate the major points of the article. Color slides (35mm) are best, but original line art, photostats, high quality photocopies, black and white photographic prints (glossies preferred), and color prints are also acceptable. Computer-generated illustrations (i.e., scanned art, ArcInfo

maps, etc.) can be forwarded through cc:Mail, on floppy disc, or on laser-printer originals (600 dpi if possible). Include the name of the artist or photographer and documentation of approved use if the illustration is copyright-protected. Label each illustration with park name, article title, any placement information (e.g., fig. 1), and the file format (e.g., TIF, EPS, etc.).

Captions

Include a description for each illustration that describes the relationship of the image to the theme of the article.

Delivery

Send contributions to the editor using these methods in priority order:

(1) by <u>cc:Mail</u> with the word-processed document and any illustration files attached. Indicate the word-processing software and version in the cover message (e.g., WordPerfect 5.1);

(2) over the Internet. First save the word-processed document as a text file (i.e., *.TXT);

(3) by fax. Use double-spaced, laser-printed originals if possible. Illustrations may not be faxed.

(4) by mailing the hard copy (double-spaced) and a floppy disc containing the word-processed document (indicate the software and version) and any illustrations;

(5) by mailing the double-spaced hard copy (laser-printed originals if possible) and any illustrations alone.

Review Procedures

Prior to submission to the editor, submit courtesy copies to both the area manager (superintendent) for policy considerations and the appropriate associate field director for natural resource stewardship and science. The editor and editorial board review articles for general appeal, relevance, usefulness, technical credibility, solution-oriented discussion, and agreement with submission criteria. Following editorial review, the editor will contact the author to discuss revisions and finalize the article.

Contributing to the *Park Science* Highlights Column

Content

The Highlights department presents an overview of the diversity and complexity of research and resource management work undertaken by the National Park Service on a cluster by cluster basis. An entry may, for example, summarize a research or resource management project; detail a noteworthy accomplishment; relate a new development, technique, or trend; discuss a challenge or complication; describe project implementation under a national resource management initiative; or profile a principal investigator. Ideally, these synopses focus on work conducted at parks rather than at the various support offices. In many cases, highlights items would make terrific feature articles, but are presented in brief as a snapshot of the research and resource management work being accomplished cluster by cluster.

Focus and Tone

Submissions should be written in lay language in the active voice. Include names of personnel and the areas featured in each entry. Strive to briefly answer the who, what, why, when, where, and how questions about the story. Stress the relationship of the subject to either a resource management or planning problem or to the state of the art of the discipline being discussed.

Length and Number of Entries

Entries vary greatly in length from 50 to 350 words, but average 200 words each. Cluster highlights contributing editors are encouraged to submit at least one entry every other issue. Unsolicited submissions from the field are also welcomed as contributing editors may not always supply material.

Illustrations

Illustrations including line art and photographs are welcomed, but not required.

Deadlines

The deadlines for Highlights submissions are: Fall issue–August 1; Winter–November 1; Spring–February 1; Summer–May 1. Late contributions are welcome, but may be held for subsequent issues.

Delivery

Contributions may be sent to the editor via several means. CC:Mail is most convenient for the editor. Simply attach your word-processed file to your cc:Mail cover message.

Contacting the Editor

Cut out and place in your Rolodex

Park Science

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